

CONNECTION

LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA

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Library of California News

Librarians' Index to the Internet:
"By librarians, for everyone!"

It is remarkable how some ideas, spawned with the basic purpose of helping people find the information they want, can blossom considerably beyond the original purpose. Such is the case with the Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII), a web-based index that guides Internet users to 7,000 librarian-selected and evaluated Internet resources.

Librarians' Index
to the Internet


The LII has had a complicated past, beginning in 1990 as creator Carole Leita's gopher bookmark file. Leita, at that time working as a reference librarian at Berkeley Public Library, used the bookmark file for what she called "real-life reference work geared to the needs and interests of California public library users, including students and adults."¹ In 1993 Leita's sizable file of 750 bookmarks was highlighted as the "Berkeley Public Library Index to the Internet" when the library mounted its website onto the City of Berkeley's new web server. Leita became the coordinator of the InFoPeople grant project in 1994, and then an instructor for the InFoPeople project in 1995, where she met Roy Tennant, also an InFoPeople instructor and manager of the Digital Library SunSITE at University of California, Berkeley. He invited Leita to include the index on the UC site. By March 1997 the Index migrated to the SunSITE and its name was changed to the LII.

Prior to the appearance of LII, many experienced and novice Internet searchers had trouble finding web pages online containing useful and reliable information. Finding websites of this type was especially critical for novice Internet searchers, who often had to plow through screen after screen of web page listings to find

possible informational sources that would answer his or her questions. Quickly finding reputable information on a wide range of topics was another obstacle.

Since its appearance in 1997, the LII continues to offset a black hole in cyberspace. Novice and expert can now browse and search 7,000 high-quality resources on the LII website, which have been divided into 40 major subject categories. The resources included in LII have been rigorously examined by volunteer librarians who apply many of the same evaluative skills they use to evaluate the quality of printed materials to the virtual sources that could potentially become part of LII. Besides evaluating the content, authority, scope, and design of these websites, LII indexers draw on their subject expertise as well as their vocational and/or avocational interests in making their final recommendations to Leita, who makes the final decision about new website additions to the LII.

The LII is popular among Internet users. A link search conducted on the AltaVista Search Engine on April 13, 2000 revealed that LII was linked to 7,640 web pages. The LII also received over 1 million hits that same month.²

To provide an ongoing, stable-funding base, the Library of California (LoC) board, in April 2000, approved expending up to \$192,000 per year to support the LII as an LoC service.

An advisory board on the LII was formed to provide ongoing guidance to this state service. Members of the LII advisory board are: Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project Coordinator; Carole

please see Librarians' Index, page 2

¹ Carole Leita, with Holly Hinman. "A Public Librarian Helps Launch an Index." *Library Journal*, October 1, 1998, p. 48.

² Holly Hinman, *Librarians' Index to the Internet: A Background Report for the Library of California Board*, April 12, 2000.

Planning begins for development of the Statewide Resource Libraries Program

The Library of California (LoC) is well underway with the development of its regional library networks, which are already providing services to Californians throughout the state. The seven regional library networks are scheduled to begin formal operations in 2001, but they are already providing services to their eligible libraries statewide. However, a major LoC component, the Statewide Resource Libraries Program, has yet to be defined or developed.

The purpose of this program is to handle reference questions beyond the capacity of the Regional Library Network Reference Program, which backs up local libraries. The LoC Act specifies that there will be a statewide resource library element, and it does not give either a specific definition of a resource library or of the services such a library would provide. Through the networking process, which took place over the last 10 years, a set of academic and public libraries, as well as the California State Library, was identified as possible participants. The primary qualification for being a major resource library was the size of the library's collection—at least 1.5 million volumes. There was no identification of the types of resources the library held, or the uniqueness of its holdings. There was also no decision made on what

services these libraries would provide, or what they would need to fulfill a statewide resource sharing role.

To further the development of this program, a meeting is scheduled at the Sacramento Public Library on October 11, 2000 for discussion of the Statewide Resource Libraries program. The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Library Galleria. All UC and CSUS libraries, as well as the CSL and many large public libraries, have received invitations to participate.

The meeting will allow participants to discuss and begin definition of:

- the scope of the statewide Resource Libraries Program in the Library of California
- the definition of Statewide Resource Libraries
- services and programs that would meet resource library needs and concerns
- the process for development of elements of statewide Resource Library Programs to be funded through the Library of California

For further information, contact Diana Paque, Library of California director, at (916) 653-7183, or by email at dpaque@library.ca.gov.

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Librarians' Index

Leita, LII manager; Gail Haar, Marin County Library; Dana Evans, Sonoma County Library; Martha Gifford, Ventura County Library Services Agency; June Pilsitz, Newport Beach Public Library; Joan Bartel, Los Angeles Public Library; Julia Hammond, San Diego County Library (community representative); Roy Tennant, California Digital Library; and Ira Bray, California State Library, representing the LoC board.

Librarians' Index
to the Internet **lii.org**
By Librarians, for Everyone!

The LII has proved its value among users as an index of high quality that blends librarians' skill at evaluating and selecting materials with the necessary technology to make it possible for Californians, residents of other states, and Internet users worldwide to access the Index. Based on the number of hits to the LII mentioned earlier, this website is becoming a major artery on the Information Superhighway.

The information used in the writing of this article was obtained from the November 15, 1996 and October 1, 1998 issues of *Library Journal*, and from Holly Hinman's Librarians' Index to the Internet background report to the LoC board on April 12, 2000. For general information about LII, or to use the LII website, see <http://lii.org>. For further information about LII, contact Carole Leita, LII manager, by email at leita@lii.org; Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project Coordinator, at (626) 796-0913, or by email at hinmanh@infopeople.org; or Ira Bray, electronic information resources consultant at the California State Library, at (916) 653-0171, or by email at ibray@library.ca.gov.

Library of California August board meeting

The following is a selection of the actions taken by the Library of California board on August 16-18 in Irvine:

1. Regional Library Networks

The board voted unanimously to accept the application of the Gold Coast Library Network, the Golden Gateway Library Network, and the Cascade Pacific Library Network, because these three regional library networks meet all the legal requirements of the LoCA and regulations. The board also voted unanimously that these three regional library networks be immediately approved for state funded network operations no sooner than January 1, 2001, and to postpone the state funded allocation for each of these three regional library networks' initial year of operations until the November 2000 board meeting so that the board can receive and consider all of the regional library network plans of service together.

2. Regional Library Network Members

The board voted unanimously to approve 17 institutions as charter members of the Gold Coast Library Network; 36 institutions as charter members of the Golden Gateway Library Network; and five institutions as charter members of the Cascade Pacific Library Network. These charter memberships are effective immediately, with state-funded member benefits for their participating libraries to commence no sooner than January 1, 2001.

3. Library of California Vision Statement and Three Year Goals

The board voted unanimously to adopt the following vision statement and three year goals as developed at the Board Planning Session on August 17, 2000:

VISION STATEMENT

The Library of California Board will be the nationally recognized leader of a dynamic statewide system of quality library services.

THREE-YEAR GOALS

(2000-2003, not in priority order)

- Achieve full implementation and funding of the Library of California Act (LoCA) and complete the transition from the California Library Services Act (CLSA).
- Promote public awareness and support of the Library of California (LoC).
- Implement regional and statewide programs and services.
- Establish an effective Board.

4. Budget change proposal priorities for 2001/02

The board voted unanimously to direct its chief executive officer to submit budget change proposals for seeking additional 2001/02 local assistance funding in the following priority order: Library of California (up to \$23,000,000), CLSA Transaction Based Reimbursements Program (\$1,251,000), CLSA Special Services - Families For Literacy (\$500,000) and California Library Literacy Service programs (\$2,078,000), and CLSA System-level Programs (Reference (\$28,000) and Communications & Delivery (\$13,000).

5. CLSA Interlibrary Loan and Direct Loan Programs

The board voted unanimously to direct its chief executive officer to withhold 10 percent of all CLSA ILL and Direct Loan Program reimbursement payments throughout the 2000/01 fiscal year, and to pay the full amount remaining due to each participating library if sufficient funds remain in the 2000/01 CLSA ILL & Direct Loan Program appropriation, or to pro rate the final payment equitably if insufficient funds remain in the appropriation for this program.

6. Adoption of resolution

The board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution for resigning board member Joanne Kennedy in appreciation of her contributions "to the libraries and people of the State of California."

7. System Advisory Board Attendance at CLA

The board voted unanimously to approve the use of 2000/01 allocated SAB Program funds, where available within each approved SAB budget, and where requested, to reimburse one SAB member from each CLSA System for expenses incurred in attending the November 2000 LoC board meeting and the California Library Association (CLA) annual conference to be held in Santa Clara.



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Planning begins for spending library bond issue funds

The board that will dispense \$350 million in bond issue funds for libraries met in Sacramento in mid-September to begin the planning process and establish regulations.

Before any monies can be appropriated to public libraries, regulations guiding the spending of the money must be established. Richard Hall, the library bond act manager, says that he expects that the planning process and the establishing of regulations will take at least a year.

The bond issue, approved by California voters in March 2000, specifies that preference is to be given to "joint-use" library facilities that share their resources with public schools. The exact meaning of "joint use" will have to be agreed upon before any money can be allocated.

Under the terms of the bond act, the members of the Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act Board are:

- Dr. Kevin Starr, state librarian;
- Philip Angelides, state treasurer;
- B. Timothy Gage, director of the Department of Finance;
- Assemblywoman Dr. Gloria Romero, appointed by the speaker of the Assembly;
- Senator Deirdre "Dede" Alpert, appointed by the Senate Rules Committee;
- And Barton P. Pachino, Esq., appointed by Gov. Gray Davis.

During the coming year, the board will establish, among other things, building standards for library construction and rules governing the way the public funds may be spent.

Hall, who managed the public library construction and renovation bond act of 1988, says that the planning and regulation-setting phase for that bond issue took two and a half years. "We're trying to get through it faster this time," he says.

Easy Reading Voter Guide gives non-partisan election information

In partnership with the League of Women Voters of California, the California State Library (CSL) has produced and is currently distributing the Easy Reading Voter Guide for the upcoming election on November 7. Originally designed for low-literacy level adults, the guide provides non-partisan information about the upcoming election in 16 easy-to-read and understand pages.

The Easy Reading Voter Guide project began in 1994 through a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant to the Santa Clara County Library literacy program, and is currently distributed statewide for all Californians to use. Community members simplify the guide's readability by removing the political jargon and technical language that, according to Easy Reading Voter Guide project director Susan Clark, tends to discourage undecided and new voters from participating in the election process.

"Studies have shown that one important reason people do not vote is because they do not feel informed and do not know where to get reliable information," says League of Women Voters of California Education Fund voter service director Jacquie Canfield. She added that the Easy Reading Voter Guide was beneficial in delivering the "central issues in a concise manner."

The guide is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean. It can be ordered from the voter guide's website for 15 cents a copy (plus 7.75 percent sales tax). It is also being distributed to public libraries statewide.

For information on obtaining the Easy Reading Voter Guide, visit their website at www.easyvoter.org, or contact Al Bennett, library programs consultant, CSL, at (916) 653-7743, or by email at abennett@library.ca.gov.



REGISTER TO VOTE

October 10 is the last day to register to vote in the November 7 general election. For information about registering to vote, call your local county elections office, or call 1-800-345-VOTE. You also can visit the Secretary of State's web site at www.ss.ca.gov.

*And don't forget
to vote on Tuesday,
November 7.*

Grants for literacy programs announced

The California State Library has announced grants to public libraries in the state to support the California Library Literacy Service (CLLS) and the Families For Literacy (FFL) programs. CLLS, a literacy program for adults, received a total of \$1,553,029. FFL, a program designed to break the cycle of illiteracy by fostering a love of books and reading that included pre-school age children in the families of adult literacy students, will receive \$2,484,000.

Under the CLLS program, seven public libraries will initiate new adult literacy programs at a cost of \$585,660. Eleven other libraries, in the second to fifth year of a 5-year funding cycle, will receive grants ranging from \$62,500 (for Susanville District Library) to \$190,822 (for Riverside County Library). The total for the 11 libraries in this stage of the program will be \$967,369.

Seventy-seven public libraries will receive awards under the FFL program. The awards received will range from \$10,000 (for Tehama County Library) to \$90,000 (for Los Angeles County Library), for a total of \$2,484,000. Of this total, \$1,100,000 comes from the Proposition 10 surtax on tobacco. The remaining \$1,384,000 awarded to FFL comes from funds provided under the California Library Services Act (CLSA). Governor Gray Davis recently augmented the annual appropriation for FFL by \$508,000.

The announcement of the awards coincided with International Literacy Day, September 8.

For further information, contact Carole Talan, library literacy programs coordinator, at (916) 653-8032, or by email to ctalan@library.ca.gov.

New online library volunteer programs discussion group formed

A new email-based online discussion group was formed recently in September to facilitate communication among California library volunteer programs.

Carla Lehn, author of the California State Library's 1999 publication entitled *Volunteer Involvement in California Libraries: "Best Practices,"* will moderate the online discussion group. The purpose of the online discussion group will be to provide the opportunity for volunteer program coordinators, library staff, and volunteers to interact virtually with others involved in California library volunteerism.

To be added to the California Library Volunteer online discussion group or to obtain further information,

contact Carla Lehn via email at Dblehn@aol.com. To obtain copies of the *Volunteer Involvement in California Libraries: "Best Practices,"* fax a request for this publication to Martha Ortiz, Library Development Services bureau of the California State Library. The fax phone number is (916) 653-8443. Include in the fax the title of the publication, the number of copies wanted, and the shipping name and address.

For more information about the volunteerism program, contact Al Bennett, library programs consultant at the California State Library, at (916) 653-7743, or by email at abennett@library.ca.gov.



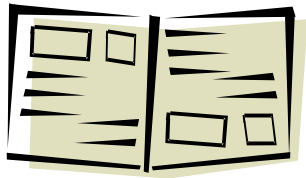
California Center for the Book

In October, the California Center for the Book is pleased to present the premieres of the film, *Women of Mystery: Three Writers Who Forever Changed Detective Fiction*, by award-winning filmmakers Pamela Beere Briggs and William McDonald. *Women of Mystery* combines engaging interviews with Sue Grafton, Marcia Muller, and Sara Paretsky; excerpts from the writers' books; and fascinating scenes following the writers as they research, photograph, and explore Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and Chicago. The premieres will be held October 5th at the San Francisco Public Library, and October 6th at the Los Angeles Public Library. Marcia Muller, Sara Paretsky, and Charles Champlin are the honored guests at both premieres. Screenings will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the writers and the filmmakers.

The California Center for the Book will present a comprehensive screening-reading-and-discussion program in libraries across California. Each four-week program includes a screening of *Women of Mystery* and three scholar-led discussions focusing on books by Sue Grafton, Marcia Muller, and Sara Paretsky. The program will engage communities in California in discussion about the social and literary topics addressed in the film and the books, such as the evolution of the woman's voice in contemporary fiction, the significance of place and setting within detective fiction, the intimate connection between the reader and the fictional hero, homelessness, spousal abuse, and the environment.

In November, the Santa Monica Public Library and the California Center for the Book are pleased to present 'The Literature of California: L.A. Stories'. A celebration of the publication of *The Literature of California, Volume I* and contemporary Los Angeles fiction and poetry on the Golden State's Sesquicentennial. The evening program, at the Santa Monica Public Library November 16th, will introduce the audience to a 21st century canon of California literature, and will feature readings by *The Literature of California, Volume I* co-editors and noted LA writers: Jack Hicks, James D. Houston, Maxine Hong Kingston, Carolyn See, Jervy Tervalon, and Hector Tobar.

For information about these programs and all of the other Center for the Book events and activities, please visit their website at www.calbook.org, and come and meet them at Booth 907 at the CLA annual conference.



Library-related publications are available at State Library

Do you have a library-related issue and are not sure where to find the information? The Library Development Services (LDS) bureau of the California State Library (CSL) may have the answer. These are free publications and can be ordered from LDS. The ordering information appears at the end of this article. Below is a list of some of the publications currently available through LDS.

- *Entering the 21st Century: California's Public Libraries Face the Future*. Institute for the Future, April 1996.

A CSL-sponsored research project conducted in 1995 to examine the challenges public libraries are currently facing in California, and to develop a range of strategies as public libraries enter the 21st century.

- *Public and School Libraries: Issues and Options of Joint Use Facilities and Cooperative Use Agreements*. Compiled by Christopher Berger for Richard Hall, library bond act manager, Office of Library Construction. August 2000.

Compilation of articles and bibliographies about the issues in planning and building joint school and public library facilities; or in establishing

cooperative agreements between schools and public libraries.

- *Trustee Tool Kit for Library Leadership*. 1998 ed. California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC).

Practical guide to information library trustees and/or commissioners should know to be effective leaders. Also available on the CSL website at www.library.ca.gov/LDS/toolkit.pdf.

- *Volunteer Involvement in California Libraries: "Best Practices."* By Carla Lehn. 1999.

Discusses components of a successful volunteerism program in libraries. Includes examples of "best practices" that have been used successfully in various public libraries in California.

To order any of these publications, include the title of the publication, number of copies wanted, and the shipping address of the requesting library. Fax the request to Martha Ortiz, LDS bureau, at (916) 653-8443, or mail to California State Library, Library Development Services Bureau, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001.

A P P O I N T M E N T S

Cindy Tackett joins literacy staff in LDS

Cindy Tackett, recently promoted to the position of Associate Government Program Analyst (AGPA) in the Budgets office of the California State Library, has accepted the new AGPA literacy position in the Library Development Services bureau of the State Library. In her new position, Tackett will be working with both components of the California Literacy Campaign (adult and family literacy), and will be responsible for setting up and monitoring grant proposals, application review, and record-keeping for the new English Language Literacy Intensive (ELLI) program.

October

October 1, 2000

Start of fiscal year 2000/2001 LSTA projects

October 15-21, 2000

Teen Read Week

November

November 9-10, 2000

Library of California board meeting, Santa Clara

November 9, 2000

State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting,
Santa Clara

November 11-14, 2000

California Library Association (CLA)
Annual Conference, Santa Clara

November 11, 2000

California Millenium Conference: CLA 2000,
Santa Clara

November 15-18, 2000

California School Library Association (CSLA)
Annual Conference, Santa Clara

2001

January 12-17, 2001

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter meeting,
Washington, DC

March 15-18, 2001

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
National Conference, Denver

June 14-20, 2001

ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco

October 3-7, 2001

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

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Articles for inclusion in a
future issue of the
Connection are welcomed.
Please submit articles or
suggestions to the *Connection*
editor, Robert Daseler



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